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No. 102

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COBLE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 27, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable HOWARD COBLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 12 noon in lieu of morning hour debates.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We gather together for prayer as we do every day when we ask for guidance and blessing for the day ahead.

But on this day, O God, we come with hearts that are saddened and with souls distressed with the knowledge that violence has been done to our community. As we gather for our prayer we come as people who have the honor of service in this special place, but today we mourn the loss of two of

our colleagues who gave their lives so others would live.

From this time onward the names of Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson will be remembered with honor and dignity and praise and thanksgiving. O loving and eternal God, whose mercies are without end, we ask Your blessing upon the families of these men. Comfort them in their sorrow, strengthen them in their need, grant solace and peace in their hearts. You have promised, O God, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You are with us with Your grace and Your promise of eternal life.

We also remember in our prayer Angela Dickerson and offer our prayers for her recovery. May Your spirit be with her and her family and sustain them in the days ahead.

We pray, O loving God, that your strong hand will give a special blessing to those men and women who have devoted their lives to the protection of all of us who work in our Capitol, and also the many who visit this place. For all the police who serve with faithfulness and dedication and who mourn the loss of two of their own, we ask for Your healing presence. Be with them in their grief.

May your peace, O God, that passes all human understanding, be with all who mourn, now and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all Members and guests to join me in pledging allegiance to the flag, which stands for the principles for which Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut have so recently given their lives.

Mr. HOYER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DETECTIVE JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

Mr. DeLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 310) and I ask for its immediate consideration and adoption by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 310

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DETECTIVE JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT.

The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used for a memorial service and proceedings related thereto for Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police on Tuesday, July 28, 1998, under the direction of the United States Capitol Police Board.

SEC. 2. PLACEMENT OF PLAQUE IN CAPITOL IN MEMORY OF DETECTIVE GIBSON AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CHESTNUT.

The Architect of the Capitol shall place a plaque in honor of the memory of Detective

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police at an appropriate site in the United States Capitol, with the approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

SEC. 3. PAYMENT OF FUNERAL EXPENSES FOR JOHN GIBSON AND JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make such arrangements as may be necessary for funeral services for Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police, including payments for travel expenses of immediate family members, and for the attendance of Members of the House of Representatives at such services, including payments for expenses incurred by Members in attending such services.

(b) SOURCE AND MANNER OF MAKING PAYMENTS.—Any payment made under subsection (a) shall be made from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives, using vouchers approved in a manner directed by the Committee on House Oversight.

SEC. 4. PAYMENT OF SURVIVOR'S GRATUITY TO WIDOWS OF JOHN GIBSON AND JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the first sentence of the last undesignated paragraph under the center heading "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES" in the first section of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1955 (2 U.S.C. 125), the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to pay, from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives—

(1) a gratuity to the widow of Detective John Michael Gibson of the United States Capitol Police in the amount of \$51,866.00; and

(2) a gratuity to the widow of Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police in the amount of \$47,280.00.

(b) TREATMENT AS GIFT.—Each gratuity paid under subsection (a) shall be held to have been a gift.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITOL POLICE MEMORIAL FUND.

It is the sense of Congress that there should be established under law a United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund for the surviving spouse and children of members of the United States Capitol Police who are slain in the line of duty.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, obviously I will not object, but at this time I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip, who lost a good and true friend, as all of us lost two good and true friends.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding, and I appreciate the gentleman's expression of sympathy. The gentleman has always shown a true regard for the Capitol community and the people that work here, and particularly the Capitol Police that protect us. I appreciate the

gentleman joining me in this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution will do several things. I want Members to understand that this is not the only resolution we will be doing today. Later on today, when Members come back and get into town, they will be able to express themselves when we will have another resolution honoring Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut.

Mr. Speaker, this particular resolution establishes some very real principles. First of all, it authorizes the use of the Rotunda for a memorial service for Detective Gibson and Private First Class Chestnut. It also, for the first time that I know of, authorizes the placement of two plaques in honor of Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut in the general area where they lost their lives, commemorating those two spots in the Capitol.

We also want to obviously pay for their funeral expenses. This resolution allows us to do that. We also want to make sure that their surviving widows are taken care of and make sure that they do not have any concerns about their future and the future of their children, and, therefore, we authorize one year's annual salary to be paid to the widow of Detective Gibson and to the widow of Officer Chestnut. We also establish a Capitol Police Memorial Fund that will be used for whatever the needs may be of the families of Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut.

Later on today, as I said, we will consider a concurrent resolution that honors the memory of these two officers, of these two fine, fine gentlemen. Some, probably cynically, are already asking why we are using the Capitol Rotunda to honor these two brave men. After all, police officers are slain in the line of duty all over the country; why should these two particular men receive special treatment? Is it simply because they died defending Members of Congress and their staff?

Besides their personal bravery, these men died defending the Capitol of the United States of America, the symbol of freedom across this world. They are the first Capitol Police officers to die in the line of duty since the Capitol Police Department was created 170 years ago. They died saving lives. They died doing their job. They died being professionals and representing a fine, fine law enforcement group of officers that protect this Capitol and everybody in it, whether they be tourists, Americans, people from other nations or Members of Congress and their staffs.

I just feel that it is absolutely fitting, and I greatly appreciate the leaders of both the House and Senate in agreeing to use the Rotunda to pay tribute to these two officers. By paying tribute to their sacrifice, we all pay tribute to the sacrifices of law enforcement officers all across this country. What more fitting place to pay tribute to law enforcement officers than in the Rotunda of the building that is the symbol of freedom across the world?

John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut were members of this Capitol Hill community. One of the most gratifying things that I know the families have received, as well as me and my staff, who have had a very difficult weekend, is all the calls from all across the country honoring these two wonderful men as heroes. They are leaving behind many grieving friends and associates here in this Capitol Hill community.

I saw J.J. Chestnut every night when I left this building. He was always standing there by the document door. He was always grinning, and he was always giving me, in a very warm, open-hearted way, a hearty, hearty, sincere, "Good night, Congressman. You take care of yourself." And every night I would respond with, "J.J., you be careful."

He was careful, but, unfortunately, not enough, and this shooter comes in and shoots him. But my enduring vision of J.J. will be of a professional officer who loved his job, loved his post, fought to keep his post, and he was dedicated to his duty in protecting the Nation's Capitol and everyone that was in it.

John Gibson was a member of my security detail, and, therefore, he was a member of my staff. But, as importantly, my wife and my daughter and I feel very strongly that he was a member of our family. John and I went everywhere together. We had many long talks about life, about family, about duty and about country.

John loved his detective badge. In fact, he would get in trouble for wearing it, but he wore it because he was so proud about the fact that he was a detective in the Capitol Police Corps, that he had made detective, that he was a man that believed in duty, and that he knew that it would be possible some day that he would have to throw his body in front of me or someone like me and my staff.

□ 1215

One never thinks that that is really going to happen, but it happened on Friday, and John did throw his body between my staff and a shooter, and he lost his life for it. The President said it so well, because it is in scripture, that "No greater gift is there than the gift of laying down your life for another," and John gave the ultimate gift.

He loved his country, John did. He loved sports. John Gibson was a solid man. He was a patriot. He exemplified everything that was good about America.

Both John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut are also members of another community, and that is the Nation's community of police officers. As such, their sacrifice represents the sacrifices of thousands of police officers across the Nation who do their duty to serve and protect the public, sometimes under great abuse, sometimes under great disregard, and many times people take them for granted. It all comes together when an incident like this happens and

we realize how much we owe to police officers all across this country.

So I think by using the Rotunda to honor these fallen heroes we are honoring not only the specific acts of courage that have saved so many other Americans and we are not only honoring them because of the fact that this was their building and they were protecting it, we also honor them, all fallen law enforcement heroes who have died defending the American people from evil.

So my heart goes out to the families of John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut, and particularly those young kids that have lost a father. We have lost two wonderful heroes who have saved so many from harm. We have lost two heroes who were dedicated husbands and wonderful fathers, and I urge all my colleagues and the American people in general to pray for these families as they try to cope with this great loss.

Mr. Speaker, I will just add at the end, if people around this country want to donate to the memorial fund created by this resolution, they can send their contributions to the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund, United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., 20515.

Let me also add, if the gentleman will further yield, something that really touched me just a while ago. One of the pages came up to me and handed me this, and I want to put it in the RECORD, from the pages that serve here in the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the Pages would like to say that "We salute these two fallen heroes who gave their lives for ours. In the line of duty, these men stood strong and brave for their country. For that, we all owe a great debt of gratitude."

"We are all aware of their courageous sacrifice, and we hold these officers deep in our hearts. God bless their families, and God bless America."

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding, and I include for the RECORD the tribute by our Pages.

FROM THE PAGES OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We salute these two fallen heroes who gave their lives for ours. In the line of duty, these men stood strong and brave for their country. For that, we all owe a great debt of gratitude.

We are all aware of their courageous sacrifice, and we hold these officers deep in our hearts. God bless their families, and God bless America.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation, I sadly join the majority whip, whose comments are both personal but express as well the sentiments of his colleagues.

Over 14,622 law enforcement officers have lost their lives in the history of our country. The first one lost his life in 1794. Since that time, we have asked some of our fellow citizens to take upon themselves the responsibility and the risk of defending freedom here at home.

When I began the Pledge of Allegiance, I said that Officer Chestnut and

Detective Gibson died defending the principles for which it stands. That was literally and figuratively true. Every morning those whom we ask to bear the responsibility of maintaining order in a civil society, without which we would not have freedom and justice and the rule of law, they put on their uniform or their plain clothes and they put on a badge, and most of them attach a gun to their hip or to their shoulder. They and their families know that daily they risk their lives. In this instance, of course, because no previous Capitol police officer has lost his or her life in a confrontation, that risk seemed remote.

Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 24 reminds us once again that the risk is always present for those we ask to defend this free society. The vagaries of life are such that there are those, either demented or angry or for whatever reasons, take onto themselves the opportunity to commit violence.

In this instance, Officer Chestnut, Detective Gibson and, indeed, the hundreds of Capitol police officers who responded to this crisis, gave their lives that many others might be safe and, more importantly, to indicate that the Capitol of the United States, Freedom's House, if you will, will, in fact, be accessible, but it will also be protected.

Our community on this Hill is a grief-stricken community, and it is a reflection of a country that shares that grief. I have had the opportunity of talking to family members of these officers. I and so many others on this floor know the personal grief that they are experiencing. They have lost a loved one. They have lost a friend. They have lost a dad or brother or an uncle or a friend and a neighbor. They have a very personal grief.

But our country has a collective grief, and it is appropriate that we honor these men, both as individual American heroes, but as well, as the majority whip has indicated, as two members of a group of some 700,000 Americans who daily leave their homes and take to their duties to defend America's principles, to defend Americans, to defend an orderly society.

These men and women of law enforcement, like those we ask to join the Armed Services and defend freedom abroad, are equally responsible for us being able to meet in this body in a society that honors the peaceful resolution of disputes. We are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave. This resolution honors two of those brave who ensure that this will be, in fact, the land of the free.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1702

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ARMEY) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.)

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DETECTIVE JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR THEIR SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM AT THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ON JULY 24, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 311) honoring the memory of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police for their selfless acts of heroism at the United States Capitol on July 24, 1998, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 311

Whereas the Capitol is the people's house, and, as such, it has always been and will remain open to the public;

Whereas millions of people visit the Capitol each year to observe and study the workings of the democratic process;

Whereas the Capitol is the most recognizable symbol of liberty and democracy throughout the world and those who guard the Capitol guard our freedom;

Whereas Private First Class Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson sacrificed their lives to protect the lives of hundreds of tourists, staff, and Members of Congress;

Whereas if not for the quick and courageous action of those officers, many innocent people would likely have been injured or killed;

Whereas through their selfless acts, Detective Gibson and Private First Class Chestnut underscored the courage, honor, and dedication shown daily by every member of the United States Capitol Police and every law enforcement officer;

Whereas Private First Class Chestnut, a Vietnam veteran who spent 20 years in the Air Force, was an 18-year veteran of the Capitol Police, and was married to Wen Ling and had five children, Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen and William;

Whereas Detective Gibson, assigned as Rep. Tom DeLay's bodyguard for the last